

# Role of family physician returns to prominence

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For many years, the family physician has considered himself largely as a triage officer, who identified problems of ill health and channeled them to various specialists in order to resolve them. The generalist or family physician tended to play a less significant role in patient care while the patient was hospitalized, while a battery of specialists and sub-specialists managed the patient. In more recent times, and particularly in 1977, the family physician is playing a more significant role in patient care in the hospital.

For one thing, family practice has become a clinical department in the hospitals. There is a clearly defined delineation of hospital privileges for each physician, generalist and specialist.

ALSO, a residency training program in family practice has been established in many hospitals (including Botsford General Hospital) and the family physician then qualifies as a certified specialist in general practice. In the family practice residency, the

physician is exposed to an in-depth training in the various clinical departments, such as surgery, internal medicine, obstetrics, and pediatrics, along with training in the supportive services, such as X-ray, pathology. At the present time, a physician qualifies for this residency in family practice after he has served an internship in an approved hospital.

The hospitals are becoming far more active in community affairs, particularly where the activities are health related. Among these activities are:

1. The training of qualified people in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Demonstrations are offered to community residents.
2. Pre-natal programs for expectant parents are offered on an organized level with physicians and nurses participating in these programs.
3. Classes for patients with diabetes and the families of diabetic patients are offered on an ongoing basis. Any physician may refer his patient to this program. Diabetic screening tests are offered, in concert with the Michigan Diabetes Association.
4. THE clinical training of student nurses from Mercy Hospital, Oakland

Community and Schoolcraft College in concert with the schools of nursing presently in effect.

5. Nutrition and dietary classes for patients with special problems requiring special diet programs, such as heart and high blood pressure problems.
6. Career programs for high school, as well as elementary school students.
7. Pharmacy interns from Ferris State College.
8. Residency in hospital administration. (Xavier University in Cincinnati.)
9. Medical technicians and medical records students receive clinical training at the hospital (Schoolcraft College.)
10. Guests lecturers for various community organizations are available.
11. Emergency medical technicians receive didactic and clinical training.

There are, of course, ongoing in service training programs for hospital personnel in every area of hospital service, in an effort to keep abreast of new and possibly better methods of providing these services.

With the expanded role of the family physician and the effective utilization of review committees as to length of patient stay, there has been a considerable reduction in patient stay at the hospital.

THE ESTABLISHMENT of a professional building and an outpatient surgery, an outpatient X-ray and nuclear medicine service contiguous with the hospital has helped to minimize cost of patient care and make professional services more readily available to patients.

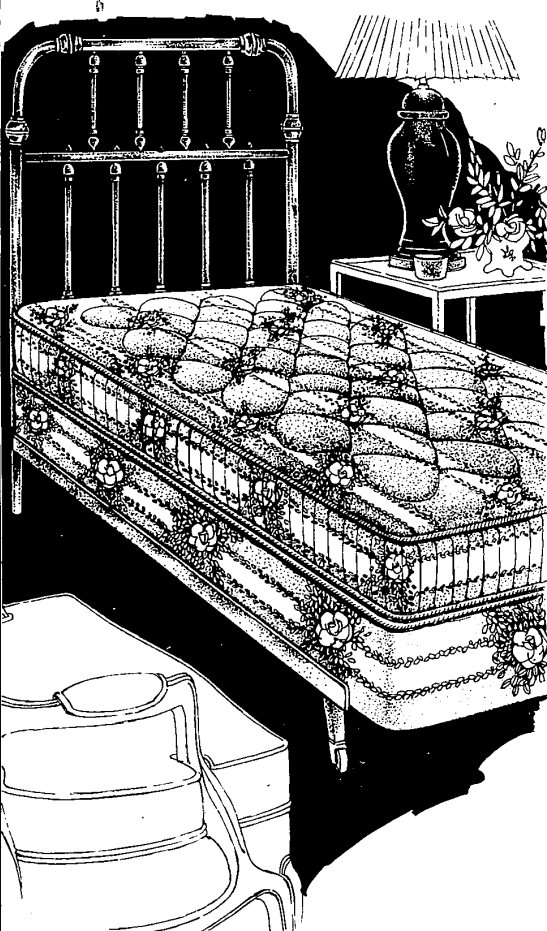
The philosophy that every person has a right rather than a privilege of receiving proper medical care is valid and is in fact practiced at all good health centers. A national health service is probably in the offing for late 1978 or early 1979 and if properly developed by the Health Service Agencies (HSA) in concert with the providers and third party payers, may in fact create an egalitarian society in so far as health maintenance and disease prevention is concerned.

The practice of medicine is an art supported by scientific investigation and research. The human aspect of practice is the fiduciary relationship that exists between doctor and patient and this relationship must not be compromised.

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### Talking shop

Among the counselors who recently met at the University of Detroit were (from left) Richard Wilson of North Farmington High School and Max Hoffman of Madison Heights. The counselors met at U of D to familiarize themselves with the university's programs and admissions procedures.

### Brotherton schedules meetings

State Rep. Wilbur Brotherton (R-Farmington) has scheduled a series of meetings to discuss the "Right to die with dignity," and the state transportation situation.

The first meeting with residents will be at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Southfield Recreation Center. The second meeting will be at 10 a.m., Jan. 9, in the Farmington Library.

The third meeting also will be on Jan. 9, in the Farmington Hills Library on Twelve Mile, from 7-9 p.m.

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